

IN THE CLAIMS:

7. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further including the step of:
 - c) machining differential case features subsequent to performing step b).

8. (Amended) The method according to claim 7, further including the step of:
 - d) machining gear teeth on the ring gear subsequent to performing step c).

9. (Amended) The method according to claim 8, further including the step of:
 - e) induction hardening the gear teeth subsequent to performing step d).